

Technical Report on the June 2024 First-Year Law Students' Examination

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The First-Year Law Students' Exam consists of 100 multiple-choice questions – 90 scored questions and 10 unscored. The multiple-choice exam assesses applicants' knowledge, skills, and abilities in three subject areas: Contracts, Criminal Law, and Torts. In the past, the First-Year Law Students' Exams (FYLSX) included an essay portion, so the June 2024 administration marks a change in the exam structure from prior years. As such, the June 2024 exam will serve as a new baseline for applicant performance. Ninety of the 100 multiple-choice questions, 30 from each subject area, contributed to an applicant's total score. The additional 10 questions were used for pretesting and as potential substitutes if any of the scored questions did not perform well statistically.

Each exam question has a value of one point. The total number of correctly answered questions is the applicants' raw score. The raw score was transformed into a scale score to maintain the meaning of a fixed passing score on that scale. On that scale, applicants who earn a scaled score of at least 560 pass the exam. The scale score range for the FYLSX is 0 to 800. For this administration of the exam, the scaling function is as follows:

If the total raw multiple-choice score ≤ 62 :

Total scaled score = (Total raw multiple-choice score \times 9.03)

If the total raw multiple-choice score > 62 :

Total scaled score = (Total raw multiple-choice score \times 8.57) + 28.57

Of the 243 applicants who took the exam, 79 had scaled multiple-choice scores of at least 560, and 164 applicants had scores less than 560. This means that the pass rate for the June 2024 FYLSX exam was 32.5%. Given the structural changes to the June administration of the FYLSX, there were no reappraisals of applicant exams with scores near the passing cut as had been done in the past. The scaled multiple-choice score alone determined the applicant's pass or fail status.

Table 1 shows summary statistics for the June 2024 FYLSX. Internal consistency reliability for the multiple-choice exam was 0.89. This value can range from 0 to 1.00 with values of approximately 0.85 or higher considered acceptable for high-stakes examinations. Additional information for this exam can be found in the associated General Statistics spreadsheet included with this report.

Table 1 - FYLSX Summary Statistics

	Value
Number of Applicants	243
Mean	
<i>Raw Score out of 90</i>	55.1
<i>Scale Score out of 800</i>	497.1
Standard Deviation	
<i>Raw Score</i>	12.4
<i>Scale Score</i>	110.6
Reliability	0.89